

FREE-STANDING DECKS

Decks which are free-standing do not utilize the exterior wall of the existing house to support vertical loads; instead, an additional beam with posts is provided at or within 3'-0" of the existing house. THE ASSOCIATED DECK POST FOOTINGS SHALL BE PLACED AT THE SAME ELEVATION AS THE EXISTING HOUSE FOOTING. See FIGURE 2 and FIGURE 21. Beam size is determined by TABLE 2 or TABLE 3.

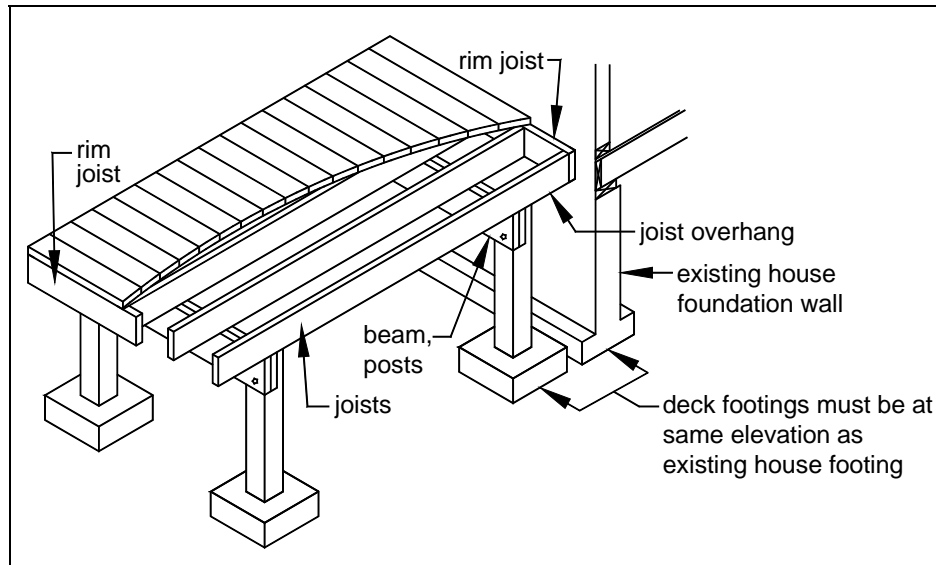


FIGURE 21: FREE-STANDING DECK

LATERAL SUPPORT OF FREE-STANDING DECKS

Free standing decks greater than 2 feet above grade shall resist lateral loading and horizontal movement by providing diagonal bracing or by attaching to the exterior wall of the house.

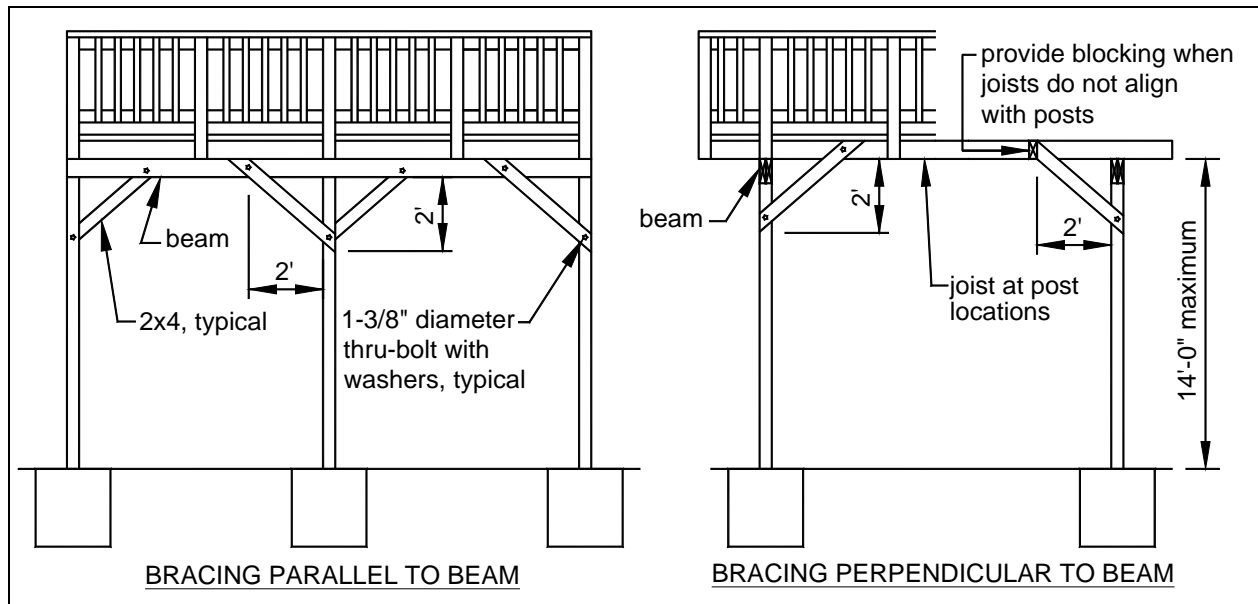


FIGURE 22: DIAGONAL BRACING REQUIREMENTS

Diagonal Bracing: Provide diagonal bracing both parallel and perpendicular to the beam at each post as shown in FIGURE 22. When parallel to the beam, the bracing shall be bolted to the post at one end and beam at the other. When perpendicular to the beam, the bracing shall be bolted to the post at one end and a joist at the other. When a joist does not align with the bracing location, provide blocking between the next adjacent joists.



Fairfax County
VIRGINIA

Typical Deck Details

Based on the 2003 Virginia Uniform
Statewide Building Code

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/decks

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